Public Participation Network Cork County

E - Bulletin Newsletter 18/11/2026

Dear PPN Member,

Welcome to our E-Bulletin!
Our E-Bulletin is designed to keep you up to date with Cork County Public Participation News and to keep you connected to other communities, events, training, and information.
Whilst Cork County Public Participation Network has **almost** 800 member groups, it has the potential to reach so many more - so forward this email to your committee members and volunteers!
I hope you find this helpful. Get in touch if there is anything you would like to include in future editions, we may even make you our next Group of the Week!

Watch a short video animation about Cork County PPN - Click the following link.

Check Out or Website Link

And be sure to engage with us on the socials!

Facebook – Cork County PPN

Instagram – @corkcountyppn

Anthony & Noelle xx

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News & Events:



Member Database Reregistration 2027

Cork County PPN will be carrying out a full member database update in the new year.

While an update was initiated earlier this year, engagement levels were lower than anticipated.

To ensure our records remain accurate and compliant with national requirements, all member groups will be asked to complete a simple reregistration process.
In line with PPN National Guidelines and GDPR requirements, all member organisations must re-register to confirm their details and consent to remain on our database. This helps ensure that your group continues to receive information on funding opportunities, consultations, training, events, and other news relevant to the community and voluntary sector.

The process should be straightforward. Member groups will receive a link to an online form and will be given several weeks to complete it. Groups that do not complete the re-registration process will be removed from the database, which may affect access to PPN supports and benefits, including insurance schemes, grants, training opportunities, and participation in PPN activities.

Re-registration will also provide an opportunity to review and update your organisation's contact details and other relevant information. If your group is no longer active or no longer wishes to be a member of the PPN, there will be an option to opt out, and your records will be updated or removed accordingly.

We encourage all member groups to begin reviewing their contact details now to ensure a smooth re-registration process in the new year and to help us maintain an accurate and up to-date membership database.

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Linkage Group Initial Meetings

As part of the roll-out of **Cork County PPN's new Linkage Groups**, we are holding a series of workshops in the **Kingsley Hotel** from **7.00pm to 8.30pm**. The first session was held last night, with the remaining workshops taking place on **18 November** and **19 November**.

These workshops are open to all member groups and will focus on developing a **PPN Community Issues Paper**. This paper will identify the issues, challenges and opportunities that communities across County Cork want the PPN to prioritise and advocate for over the coming years.

The workshops will also provide an opportunity to:

- Discuss the key issues affecting your community or sector.
- Meet other PPN member groups with shared interests.
- Help shape the priorities of the new Linkage Groups.
- Ensure community voices inform local policy and decision-making.
- Learn more about how Linkage Groups and PPN representation work.

Workshop Dates

Climate Action, Environment, Planning & Transport

- Wednesday, 18 November
- Kingsley Hotel
- 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Social Inclusion, Rural Development & Housing

- Thursday, 19 November
- Kingsley Hotel
- 7.00pm - 8.30pm

These first meetings will play an important role in shaping the future work of Cork County PPN, and we encourage all member groups to attend and have their voices heard.

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Make One Change 2026



There is still time to get involved in **Make One Change 2026**, a month-long initiative led by Cork County Council Library and Arts Service in partnership with Cork County Council's Climate and Environment Departments and Europe Direct Carrigaline. The campaign features a range of free events across County Cork designed to inspire practical climate action, including talks, workshops, demonstrations and community activities.

Upcoming events include home energy talks, sustainable craft workshops, biodiversity and gardening sessions, repair cafés, food sustainability workshops, seed swaps and family-friendly activities, taking place in libraries throughout the county between **18 and 28 November**.

For full event details and to find activities taking place in your local library, visit **Make One Change 2026 | Cork County Council**.

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Literacy Opens Doors 2026 - Upcoming Free Webinars

The **National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA)** is continuing its *Literacy Opens Doors 2026* webinar series for community and voluntary organisations. The series highlights practical tips and inspiring projects to support literacy-friendly practices in communities.

Upcoming webinars:

- **Plain English Tips for Leaflets and Posters**
  Friday 20 November, 10.00am - 11.00am
- **Stepping Stones to Learning**
  Friday 27 November, 10.00am - 11.00am

Around 700,000 adults in Ireland experience literacy difficulties, while approximately 835,000 adults struggle with everyday maths. Community and voluntary organisations play an important role in supporting people to access information, services and learning opportunities. These free webinars offer practical advice and examples to help organisations become more literacy-friendly.

For further information and registration details, visit the NALA website - Literacy Opens Doors: Free NALA webinar Series - November 2026

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Free Online Training for Community Groups: Fundraising & Grant Applications

As we head into Q4, that time of year is coming – the Local Enhancement Programme (LEP), the Municipal District Community Fund Scheme, etc – they will all be reopening for applications between now and early January 2027, and we want to ensure you are prepared!

Cork County PPN is delighted to offer a series of **four practical online training sessions** delivered by experienced community development consultant **Tom O'Leary**. These **interactive workshops** will provide tools, templates and practical guidance to help your group secure funding and plan successful fundraising initiatives.

olatc.ie
O'LEARY & ASSOCIATES

Sessions 1 & 2: Fundraising Skills for Community Groups

Learn how to develop a fundraising strategy, identify new income opportunities, engage sponsors, and plan effective fundraising campaigns. Topics include budgeting, online fundraising, sponsorship, marketing and campaign evaluation.

Monday 23rd November | 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Tuesday 24th November | 7.30pm - 9.00pm

Sessions 3 & 4: Preparing Grant Applications

Gain practical skills to identify suitable funding opportunities and prepare strong grant applications. The training will cover needs analysis, application planning, funder requirements, scoring systems, procurement guidelines and online application processes.

Tuesday 1st December | 7.30pm - 9.00pm
Wednesday 2nd December | 7.30pm - 9.00pm

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Who should attend?

Community and voluntary groups, residents' associations, local projects and anyone involved in fundraising or applying for grants on behalf of a community organisation.

Part 1 : Register here : https://form.jotform.com/263154538738062

Part 2 : Register here : https://form.jotform.com/263154687612058

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Funding Opportunities for Community Solar Projects

Community groups and sports clubs considering solar energy projects may be interested in a free funding guide from **Solar Info**. The guide outlines a range of funding options that have helped clubs and community organisations install solar panels, including the Community Sport Facilities Fund, SEAI supports, LEADER funding, local authority climate action funding, and wind farm community benefit funds.

Examples highlighted include Carrigtwohill GAA, which received funding towards solar panels, and Fermoy Swimming Pool, which installed 170 solar panels as part of a major upgrade project.

The Community Sport Facilities Fund is currently open for applications until 26 February 2027, making this a timely opportunity for groups exploring energy-saving and sustainability initiatives. Further information is available through Solar Info's community solar funding resources.

Disclaimer: Cork County PPN is sharing this information for the benefit of members and does not endorse any particular solar energy company or service provider. Groups are advised to carry out their own due diligence and seek independent advice where appropriate before proceeding with any project.

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Census 2027 Field Support Officer Recruitment



The Central Statistics Office (CSO) is recruiting **3,850 Census Field Support Officers** nationwide to support the delivery of **Census 2027**, Ireland's first online census. These temporary, part-time positions (18 hours per week for eight weeks) will run from **5 April to 28 May 2027**, with successful candidates earning **over €3,000 plus expenses**. Applications open on **23 November** and can be made through census.ie. Community groups are encouraged to share this opportunity with members, particularly those seeking flexible, locally based work.

Application deadline: 4 December 2026 at 2.00pm, although the competition may close earlier if application numbers are reached.

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SECAD Community Group Networking Events



Community groups, volunteers and staff are invited to attend SECAD's upcoming networking events, taking place at the **Talbot Hotel, Midleton on 23 November** and the **Castle Hotel, Macroom on 24 November**.

These free events will provide an opportunity to connect with other community organisations, share experiences, explore future training needs, and learn through a guided networking process facilitated by Blueprint Training. New and existing community groups are welcome to attend.

Registration is free and refreshments will be available from 6.30pm, with networking sessions running from 7.00pm to 9.00pm.

For further information and registration details, visit - https://form.jotform.com/SECAD/secad-cgdp-networking-event

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Irish Grants and Supports Website

Irish Grants & Supports

Finding out what help is out there in Ireland is far harder than it should be, with grants scattered across dozens of government websites. The site cuts through all of that and gives people one place to find the grants they may qualify for, with a link straight to the official page.

How it works

- Describe your situation in plain words, for example “I’m a carer for my mother” or “our community group wants to do up the hall”. The site lists the supports that fit, with a short summary of each.
- Or browse by topic: home energy, carers, older people, children and families, housing, farming, business, arts and community groups.
- Every result links to the official government page, so you apply directly with the body that runs the scheme.
- There are over 400 different supports available.

Who it helps

Individuals and families, pensioners and carers, and the community and voluntary groups trying to find funding for their work. It’s free, there’s no sign-up and it never asks for personal details.

The Instagram community is growing with over 25k followers where I update them with changes, new grants and other good to know information.

Website: irishgrantsandsupports.ie
Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/irishgrantsandsupport/
Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/irishgrantsandsupports

Contact: hello@irishgrantsandsupports.ie

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An Roinn Forbartha Tuaithe agus Pobail agus Gaeltachta
Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht

PPN Stakeholder Training

We would like to remind you that the online only self-paced videos programme for PPN stakeholders has been developed with SJI. Registrations for the online only training is now open. Social Justice Ireland is providing this training on behalf of the Department.

The online only training covers the following:

- An Introduction to the PPNs (2 Modules)
- Local Government Budgets
- PPNs and Local Government
- Effective Participation in Consultations
- Effective Facilitation
- Strategic Planning
- Measuring Outcomes and Impacts

This is online only training and is intended for self-directed learning at the learner's own pace. Social Justice Ireland will provide some support via the webform on each Module page. There are no scheduled classes as part of this training.

This training is available to the following PPN Stakeholders:

- PPN Workers
- PPN Secretariat Members
- PPN Representatives
- PPN Member Groups
- Local Authority Staff
- Elected Councillors

To register, please complete the Registration Form at the following link: : Register for Training | Social Justice Ireland

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Get involved!

Secretariat Vacancies:

Cork County PPN has a number of vacancies available, some on the various Committees within the County Council - the SPCs and LDCDs, but at the moment we also have a number of positions we are looking to fill on our Secretariat - the incredibly important group that keeps the PPN show on the road !

The Cork County PPN Secretariat provides a coordinating and oversight function for the PPN. Its role is to:

- Facilitate the implementation of decisions of the PPN
- Ensure the proper functioning of the PPN between plenary meetings
- Coordinate the activities of the PPN Communicate extensively and regularly with all PPN members and disseminate information concerning all PPN activities as widely as possible
- Manage and support PPN staff The Secretariat is made up of two representatives from each of the Cork County Municipal Districts i.e. Carrigaline, Macroom, Cobh, East Cork, Bandon-Kinsale, Fermoy, Kanturk-Mallow and West Cork, as well as, two representatives from each of the PPN colleges i.e. Community & Voluntary College, Social Inclusion College and Environmental College.

Commitment Involved:

The Secretariat role is voluntary and requires approximately two hours per month to attend meetings, which generally take place at 7:00 PM on the third Tuesday of each month, alternating between in-person and online formats. Travel expenses for in-person meetings are reimbursed. Additional involvement may be required from time to time, such as participation in sub-groups or events.

This is a rewarding opportunity for individuals to contribute meaningfully to the social fabric of our communities. Secretariat members receive access to training and national events, develop key skills, and play a crucial role in shaping supports for community groups, particularly those representing marginalised voices.

Applications forms for all our available roles can be found on our website Cork County PPN Nominations - Cork County PPN

- or reach out to PPN@corkcoco.ie and we can have a chat with you about any of the roles available.

Cork County PPN is currently seeking nominations to fill **four vacancies across three Strategic Policy Committees (SPCs):**

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- **Economic Development & Enterprise SPC** – 1 vacancy
- **Social Inclusion, Community & Rural Development SPC** – 2 vacancies
- **Arts, Culture & Language SPC** – 1 vacancy

This is an opportunity to have a real voice in shaping local policy across Cork County and to ensure that the perspectives of community groups are reflected in local decision-making.

SPCs play an important role in advising and assisting the Council in the development, review and implementation of policy.



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As a PPN representative, you will:

- Ensure the voices and experiences of community groups are heard in local policy discussions.
- Help influence decisions that affect communities across Cork County.
- Represent the interests and priorities of the Community and Voluntary sector.
- Build valuable relationships with councillors, council officials and stakeholders from other sectors.
- Develop your knowledge of local government and policy-making.
- Gain experience in advocacy, representation and leadership.

What support is available?

- Meetings take place approximately four times per year, with the option to attend online or in County Hall.
- Travel expenses are reimbursed.
- New representatives will be supported by experienced PPN representatives serving on the SPCs.
- Cork County PPN will provide training, mentoring and development opportunities to support you in your role.

Interested?

If you would like to play a part in shaping policy and decision-making in Cork County, or if you have any questions about these roles, please get in touch.

The SPC nomination form is available here:
https://corkcountyppn.ie/cork-county-ppn-nominations/

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- Manage and support PPN staff

The Secretariat nomination form is available here:
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#fundingfriday



Arts Funding Opportunities Now Open

Cork County Council Arts Office has opened its 2027 Arts Grant Schemes, providing support for a wide range of creative activities, projects and initiatives across the county. Funding opportunities are available for community groups, arts organisations and individual artists through schemes including:

- Arts Grant Scheme
- Irish Language Arts Scheme
- Small Capital Investment Scheme
- Creative Communities
- Artist Bursary Award
- Tyrone Guthrie Centre Residency
- Ballinglen Residency
- Artist in the Community Scheme

Application guidelines and forms are available through the Cork County Council Arts Office.

Upcoming Arts Grants Clinics

Free one-to-one Arts Grants Clinics are still available to support applicants with their submissions:

- **Mallow – 24 November**, 10.00am - 4.00pm Booking is required,

For further information on all funding opportunities, visit the Cork County Council Arts Office website - Arts Funding and Opportunities | Cork County Council

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Music Capital Scheme 2026 – Applications Now Open



Music Network has announced the launch of the Music Capital Scheme 2026, with a total fund of €500,000 available to support the purchase of musical instruments and equipment by musicians and performing groups across Ireland.

Funding is available under three strands:

Non-professional performing groups

Established professional performing musicians

Emerging professional performing musicians

Applications are now open, with a closing date of **2.00pm on Tuesday, 15 December 2026**

A range of free supports will also be available to applicants, including online information sessions, in-person workshops, seminars and one-to-one consultation opportunities

For full details and application information, visit the Music Network website: https://www.musicnetwork.ie/whats-on/music-capital-scheme

For information on applicant support sessions, visit: https://www.musicnetwork.ie/whats-on/music-capital-scheme-applicant-support-sessions

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Cash4Clubs Programme - Funding Opportunity for Community Sports Clubs

The Cash4Clubs Programme is now open for applications and is offering a total funding pot of €500,000 for grassroots sports clubs across Ireland and the UK. Grants of €2,000 will be awarded to 225 clubs, with an additional five clubs receiving a transformational grant of €10,000.

Funding can be used to improve facilities, purchase equipment, and support the long-term sustainability of clubs and organisations. Eligible applicants include not-for-profit sports clubs, charities, community groups, and companies without share capital that have appropriate governance structures in place. Organisations must support adult members (18+) only to qualify.

Applications are open until **1 January 2027**. Groups interested in applying can find full details and submit an application through the Cash4Clubs website: cash4clubs.org.

Since 2008, the programme has provided more than €7 million in funding to grassroots sports organisations across Ireland and the UK.

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Community Monuments Fund 2027 Now Open for Applications

Applications are now open for the **2027 Community Monuments Fund (CMF)**, which provides financial support for the conservation, maintenance, protection and promotion of Ireland's archaeological monuments and historic sites.

The fund offers a range of supports, including grants of up to **€130,000** for conservation and repair works, **€30,000** for conservation management plans and access improvements, and a new pilot stream offering up to **€10,000** to monitor previously funded conservation projects.

Community groups, owners and custodians of archaeological monuments are encouraged to explore the funding opportunities available. The closing date for applications is **approximately 22 January 2027**.

For County Cork enquiries, contact **corkheritage@corkcoco.ie**. Full details, application guidance and eligibility criteria are available from the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage.

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Consultations:

Have Your Say on Ireland's Future Wastewater and Drainage Services

Uisce Éireann is inviting stakeholders and members of the public to participate in a consultation on the proposed approach to Ireland's first **National Wastewater and Drainage Plan (NWWDP)**. The plan will provide a long-term framework for managing public wastewater infrastructure, helping to support environmental protection, sustainable communities, housing delivery and economic growth through to 2055

The consultation is open until **17 December 2026** and seeks feedback on key challenges and opportunities, proposed performance indicators, environmental considerations, and how stakeholders would like to be engaged throughout the development of the plan.

Consultation documents and details on how to make a submission are available through the Uisce Éireann consultation portal - National Wastewater and Drainage Plan | Uisce Eireann

Submissions can be made via:

- **Online:** consult.water.ie
- **Email:** NWWDP@water.ie
- **Post:** National Wastewater and Drainage Plan (NWWDP), Uisce Éireann, PO Box 860, South City Delivery Office, Cork City

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Ulster University Wildlife Predator Survey



Survey link: https://uupredatorsurvey.com/

European Movement Ireland Stakeholder Insights Survey

European Movement Ireland (EMI) is currently undertaking a review of its communications activities and is seeking feedback from stakeholders across Ireland. As part of this process, EMI has invited Cork County PPN members to participate in a short survey aimed at gathering insights from a diverse range of communities and organisations, particularly those who may feel less engaged with European issues and EU decision-making.

Participation does not require detailed knowledge of EMI's communications, and all feedback will help inform future engagement and outreach efforts.

For further information on the survey and the work of European Movement Ireland, please contact Brian Hearne, Head of Communications.

Survey: European Movement Ireland Stakeholder Insights Survey